

EDUSC Cursillo Sponsor Guidelines

Sponsors are an important key to creating a joyful Cursillo Weekend and helping new Cursillistas continue seamlessly into the Fourth Day.

Initially, a Sponsor should pray about a potential Candidate and talk to parish clergy about the candidate. Sponsoring a person to Cursillo isn't only about the person, but also about his/her ministry and desire to discover his/her talents and potential towards serving the community. Cursillo was not designed to make new Christians, but for inspiring, mobilizing and supporting existing Christians. We all come to Cursillo at different stages on our journey of faith, and the joy is that we can all learn from one another.

When first approaching potential candidates, Sponsors may encourage them to talk to parish clergy (offering to go with them, and other Cursillistas).

Sponsors should be prepared to:

- Encourage and answer any questions about the weekend
- Explain the basics of the weekend (talks, Eucharists, table groups, possible silent retreat, etc.)
- Explain the time commitment involved with the weekend (arrival time, leaving time, etc.)
- Avoid secrecy; it is not part of the Cursillo Ministry
- Ensure that the candidate has informed the weekend Lay Rector of any special needs that would be a consideration during the weekend
- Ask about home needs while candidates are away for the weekend, if appropriate
- Help facilitate palanca for the candidate (relatives, special people whose prayers and letters would provide spiritual support)
- Attend the weekend closing Eucharist and help arrange transportation for others who support the candidate
- Contact new Cursillistas a few days after the weekend to see how things are going
- Have a plan to involve new Cursillistas in post-weekend, Fourth Day activities
- Help new Cursillistas find a Reunion Group, bring them to Ultreyas if available and help them find a Spiritual Director

While some Sponsors provide travel to a weekend for their candidates, this is not a requirement and not always practical. Knowing that a new Cursillista may want to share experiences on the ride home, Sponsors can encourage traveling together, but a Candidate's desire to drive him/herself should be respected.

In the past, staff and candidate spouses have often been separated when assigning rooms. This is no longer EDUSC Cursillo policy.

A new Cursillista should be able to see the power of Group Reunion and the Fourth Day in the life of the sponsor. Potential sponsors are encouraged to invite prospective candidates to existing Group Reunions and Ultreyas before weekend attendance, if possible and practical.

A reminder: Palanca should primarily be focused on what they have done for the Candidate in a spiritual sense, such as prayer, instead of some toy or gimmick.